

principles. For, by the violence of their imaginations, having taken their fancies for realities, they make right deductions from them. In short, madmen put wrong ideas together, and so make wrong propositions, but argue and reason right from them; but idiots make very few or no propositions, and reason scarce at all. The erroneous perception of some of the mental faculties, uncontrolled by its comparing faculty, often becomes exceedingly extravagant, and extends to the whole conduct of the individual. In such cases, lunacy is so strongly marked as to be obvious at first sight, or upon a single interview with the unhappy sufferer. The most strange, whimsical, and incongruous associations are made of thoughts and objects; matter and impertinency are mixed; and the mind is involved in the most obstinate and unaccountable mistakes. During these hallucinations, however, the perceptions seem to be, in many respects quickened, and the maniac becomes exceedingly suspicious, watchful, cunning, and adroit. 1 *Zoonomia*, sec. 34, 2, 1; 2 *Ibid.* Cla. 3, 1, 2; *Rees' Cyclo. ver. Mental Derangement*; *Locke Hum. Und. b. 2, c. 11, s. 12 & 13*; *Con. Ind. Insanity*, 114, 300; 1 *Coll. Id.* 8, 36; 1 *Par. & Fonb.* 302, 311, 318; *Rush Mind*, 72, 133, 14, 257; *Shelf. Lun. cha.* 3.(k)

(k) "Oh matter and impertinency mixt!
Reason in madness!"

Lear, Act 4, s. 6.

"My pulse, as yours, doth temperately keep time,
And makes as healthful music: It is not madness,
That I have utter'd: bring me to the test,
And I the matter will reword; which madness
Would gambol from."

Hamlet, Act 3, s. 4.

Sir Henry Halford, a celebrated English physician, relates an instance in which this test, appealed to by Hamlet, was applied to a patient of his, who desired to make his will. The sick man was requested to give directions how his will should be made, and it was accordingly drawn, read to, and signed by him; but being suspected to be of unsound mind, and after a short interval, he was requested to repeat the directions he had given, "to reword the matter," but in endeavoring to do so, his mind gambolled from it, and wandered so materially from his first directions, that he was held to be *non compos mentis*, and the will was therefore set aside.—5 *Quar. Jur. Scie.* 242.

A change came o'er the spirit of my dream.
The lady of his love;—Oh! she was changed
As by the sickness of the soul; her mind
Had wander'd from its dwelling, and her eyes
They had not their own lustre, but the look
Which is not of the earth; she was become
The queen of a fantastic realm; her thoughts
Were combinations of disjointed things;
And forms impalpable and unperceived
Of others' sight, familiar were to hers.
And this the world calls phrenzy; but the wise
Have a far deeper madness, and the glance
Of melancholy is a fearful gift;